

as a U.S. Senator he worked for farmers and veterans. He worked for education. He was a member of the back rooms with the high and connected, yet he never forgot the common person.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation, and I think those who will study the life of Paul Coverdell will also be proud to support it as well.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON).

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for their hard work and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) for his hard work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House, and I would like to answer the question asked in the limited objection to this bill: Did Paul Coverdell possess the greatness to receive this honor?

Mr. Speaker, if I ask any woman in America what is great about a man, they would say one that is a man of fidelity and lives true to his values and his marriage throughout his career, and Paul did that to Nancy.

Mr. Speaker, if I ask a bureaucrat what is great about an American, they would say give me a director who not only talks the talk but walks the walk; and Paul Coverdell walked Eastern Europe, he walked battlefields, he walked back jungles.

If I ask a legislator what is greatness, they would say someone who is willing to reform and stand against great odds.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Coverdell was the minority leader of the Georgia House when the odds politically were 11-1. He passed drunk driving laws and tolerance laws that brought about reform in our State, saving of lives and addressing the appropriate way one should behave.

Mr. Speaker, if I ask a man or woman in the U.S. military what is greatness, they would say give me a politician who served his country and risked his life; and Paul Coverdell served with distinction as an officer in the United States military.

Mr. Speaker, in this day and time when the failures of a few elected politicians become fodder for nightly television and coffee-table discussions, it is appropriate that S. 360 recognizes one of us whose life was an example of greatness, a man who dispelled all of those images some like to portray of us.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Coverdell did it with an articulate voice, with hard work and dedication and with commitment. Personally, I am sorry we are here today for this because I wish Paul Coverdell was alive. I wish he was right here. God took him far too soon. But I am pleased we honor him with this recognition of the Peace Corps building, and I am pleased we honor him with

this great building at the University of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to commend my friend, a great person, Paul Coverdell.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the authorization for funds for the Paul D. Coverdell Building at the Institute of Biomedical and Health Sciences at the University of Georgia.

It is appropriate because this man we seek to honor, Paul Coverdell, was a teacher's teacher. He led by the strength of his character and the strength of his ideas. He never missed an opportunity to educate his colleagues, the press and the public. He was a hard-working, thoughtful legislator who was a leader, a good man and a very good public servant.

To me, Paul Coverdell was more than a colleague. He was a true friend, a mentor.

Mr. Speaker, when I was first elected to the Georgia State Senate, we walked together through his neighborhood so he could educate me on the difficulty of serving in the Georgia State Senate as one of the 11 that were mentioned earlier. But that was his style. He was quiet, purposeful. He was a teacher, someone who was more concerned about getting the job done than who received credit.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a scientist or doctor researching medicine and health is long, hard and painstaking. It is also often a labor in obscurity. The fruits of research, however, can have a major impact on lives today and in the future. This building's dedication to education, to improve people's lives and the future of this country is why those of us who knew Paul Coverdell believe this building is an appropriate monument to a real patriot, Paul Coverdell.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I have only one further request for time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL).

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and it is an honor to speak on this measure before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, exactly 20 years ago this month we had completed the first legislative session in which I participated as a freshman member of the Georgia Senate. When I arrived there, Paul Coverdell was already entrenched in that body. He and I were on different sides of the political spectrum, but I soon learned that he was a man that everyone respected first for his integrity and, secondly, for his willingness to work without regard for personal gratification or recognition.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we dedicate this building and this entire enterprise to his memory today.

For those that suggest that we are self-indulgent by recognizing one of our own generation, I would simply say a generation that is without heroes or models of public service is indeed a bankrupt generation. Thankfully, we have the Paul Coverdells of our day. It is appropriate that we take action to recognize him.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, today we approve important legislation in honor of Paul Coverdell, a sterling example of what a U.S. Senator should be about. And this measure we pass is more than a gesture, it is legislation of substance. I believe Senator Coverdell would be quite pleased with that fact.

We honor his memory by designating that Peace Corps Headquarters be named in his honor.

We honor his legacy of achievement by appropriating funds for the completion of a state of the art health research center at the University of Georgia, one that will provide benefits for all the people of America for generations to come.

Why do we so honor this man? Paul Coverdell provided the kind of leadership for Georgia, America, and the world, that will be sorely missed.

Paul Coverdell was unshakable in his resolve to support the right policies for Georgia and America. Yet in 6 years of serving with him in Congress, I never heard him utter an unkind word toward an opponent.

He was a man of reason and principle, and provided a shining example of civility in action in the arena of public debate.

He never backed down on principle, yet he held his ground with dignity and respect for the positions of those who disagreed. And he never gave up.

Since coming to Washington in 1993, Senator Coverdell fought to improve the education of America's children. That fight continues today. Because of his efforts, I believe that fight will eventually be won. When it is, the final product will have the fingerprints of Paul Coverdell on every page.

Senator Coverdell was likewise a champion of those who have served this country in our armed forces.

When Congress forgot the promises made to our veterans, Paul Coverdell reminded us all of those commitments. His legislation to restore those promises is still pending in both chambers.

In this House, 305 members have cosponsored this legislation, The Keep Our Promises To America's Military Retirees Act. The finest tribute we could all pay to this true statesman would be to pass that measure into law before this session ends. Today, I recommit myself to helping make that happen.

There are far too many issues to mention in which Senator Coverdell played a decisive role. But we do need to reflect on Paul Coverdell's public service before he became a Senator, for it reflects a lifetime of public service.

He began adult life by serving America in the U.S. Army in Okinawa, Korea, and the Republic of China.

He served his State in the Georgia Senate for nearly two decades.

He served America and the world as Director of the Peace Corps, where his leadership in building democracy was vital in reclaiming much of Eastern Europe from the dictatorship of communism.